



**BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC**

Environmental Purchasing – Summary Sheet

Background – Environmental Purchasing

Environmental purchasing (EP) is the affirmative acquisition of environmentally preferable products. EP may also be referred to as “environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP)”, “green purchasing”, or “green procurement”. Environmental purchasing is a concept that combines the concepts of procurement and environmental protection into a sustainable purchasing strategy. Environmental purchasing encompasses a wide range of activities, from purchasing recycled-content supplies, to reducing the number of toxic chemicals purchased, to minimizing energy and water consumption by acquiring energy- and water-efficient technologies. To implement environmental purchasing, a program is developed by a broad scope of procurement and contracting personnel.

Government Mandates Related to Environmental Purchasing

There are numerous legislative and Executive Order (EO) mandates that implement EP strategies. The workgroup will be responsible for determining the scope of the BIA EP program and establishing policies and procedures that will address applicable mandates. The following is a summary of government mandates:

Government Mandate	Description
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976, Section 6002.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Established the Federal government’s “buy-recycled” program, which uses Federal purchasing power to stimulate the demand for products made with recovered materials.• Requires the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to designate products that are or can be made from recovered materials, and recommend practices to buy these products.• Requires all procuring agencies, including the BIA, to purchased US EPA-designated products with the highest recovered content level practicable, give preference to products and practices that conserve and protect natural resources and the environment, and establish Affirmative Procurement Programs for recycled content products designated by the US EPA.
EO 13101: Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling and Federal Acquisition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implements RCRA, Section 6002 (see above).• Prohibits the purchase of printing and writing paper not containing a minimum of 30% post-consumer fiber by 1998.• Directs agencies, including the BIA, to incorporate in their daily operation methods to build markets for EP products and services that can reduce pollution, save energy and materials, and create jobs.• Mandates evaluation of Federal facilities, including the BIA, for compliance with RCRA, Section 6002.• Requires agencies, including the BIA, to establish long-term goals both for waste prevention and recycling and for buying recycled and EP products.

Government Mandate	Description
EO 13123: Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs agencies, including the BIA, to select US EPA Energy Star labeled products. • For product groups where Energy Star certification does not yet exist, directs Federal agencies, including the BIA, to select products that are in the upper 25% of energy efficiency as designated by the DOE's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP).
EO 13148: Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires Federal agencies, including the BIA, to implement an environmental management system by 2005 at all applicable facilities. • Directs agencies, including the BIA, to establish and implement environmental compliance audit programs and policies that emphasize pollution prevention. • Requires agencies, including the BIA, to pilot life cycle assessment and environmental cost accounting concepts in their operations. • Establishes an awards program to recognize environmental leadership practices. • Contains numerous procurement-related provisions to achieve reductions in the use and release of toxic chemicals.
EO 13149: Greening the Government Through Federal Fleet and Transportation Efficiency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs each agency, including the BIA, to reduce annual petroleum fuel consumption through improvements in fleet fuel efficiency and the use of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and alternative fuels. • Sets a target of 20% reduction of petroleum fuel consumption of vehicle fleet by October 2005 (compared with 1999 petroleum consumption levels). • Specifically requires agencies, including the BIA, to purchase AFVs and higher fuel economy vehicles and use alternative fuels. • Requires agencies, including the BIA, to use re-refined oil in agency fleets unless it is not available or does not meet performance needs.

Environmental Purchasing Development and Implementation

There are several possible strategies for establishing and implementing an EP Program. It will be up to the greening workgroup to develop and adopt strategies that will work best for the BIA. This EP program should be integrated with existing procurement and contracting policies and procedures. To help ensure that the program addresses all applicable levels and activities within the BIA, members of the workgroup will be from all levels, including representatives from Central Office, Environmental, Education, Law Enforcement, Contracting and Procurement, FMSC, Regional Managers, Environmental Scientists, Education Line Officers, Agency Superintendents, Facility Managers, and contracting professionals. Steps that may be taken to establish the BIA EP program include:

- Defining and documenting criteria important to the Bureau in determining what are environmentally preferable products and services (e.g., reduce air emissions, reduce toxicity, increase purchase of post-consumer recycled content materials);
- Reviewing current procurement and contracting policies and procedures to identify EP gaps and opportunities for enhancement based upon EOs, other requirements, and other BIA criteria;
- Researching and testing Bureau-defined environmentally preferable products and services that could replace current conventional products and services being used;
- Developing an EP strategy with goals and targets and that provides an integrated approach to address the various EP requirements specified in EOs, statutes, and others identified by the BIA;
- Modifying existing policies and procedures and developing tools to enhance EP;
- Establishing mechanism for approving purchase of only Bureau-defined environmentally preferable products and services, unless such products and services are not available within a reasonable time frame, do not meet performance standards, or are available only at an unreasonable price;
- Enhancing other aspects of the EP program where the BIA has identified a need such as in contracting for services;
- Communicating and educating applicable BIA personnel on the EP program. This is likely to include training programs for procurement and contracting staff Bureau-wide;

- Implementing recordkeeping and reporting procedures at each level in the BIA organization to gather data on the organizations implementation of the EP program; and
- Establishing means to assess EP progress against program goals and targets and to make adjustments based on monitoring results.

Timeline

The BIA is interested in implementing its EP program as soon as possible. Many of the EP policies and procedures should already be in place based on statutory and EO requirements. The Department of Interior is requesting EP data from each bureau for Fiscal Year 2003. The BIA intends to have an EP program fully in place within one year. Full integration of EP into all our operations and at levels of the organization as a way of doing business is expected to take much longer.

Conclusions

The benefits of environmental purchasing not only improves the environmental quality by purchasing recycled-content supplies and minimizing energy and water consumption by acquiring energy- and water-efficient technologies, but improves worker safety by reducing the number of toxic chemicals purchased, handled, and eventually disposed.